

MAN WHO CANNOT FORGET

PRIVATE VARSZAWSKI STOPPED SUDDENLY IN THE STORY HE WAS TELLING. HE HALTED A FRAC- TION LONGER THAN SEEMED NECESSARY WHEN HE READ THE WORDS FOR THE RIGHT WORD.

I LOOKED UP FROM MY NOTE-PAD INTO THE CLOUDY, DARK TUNNELS OF THE GHETTO, AND I CAUGHT THERE AN EXPRESSION OF INVISIBLE, TARTY EMOTION SUCH AS ONE SURPRISES RARELY ON A HUMAN FACE.

It was secret, personal, political. It was Frankly—it changed my feeling towards the case-history of this Polish barrister from Warsaw.

No, I was not listening to a drab, conventional tale of horror already too familiar in these days. I was listening to something that this man had *felt*, had *known*. Private Varszawska was laying bare a part of his very soul.

Outside the room in which we sat, London, utterly sane and normal, the open window floated the great city's autumn beauty. A shaft of red-gold sunlight shone through the stormy sky was brightening.

The surging of the distant traffic, the roar of the trains that was London-known yesterday, today—and please God, tomorrow.

But the quiet, insistent voice of the little man opposite me was creating a picture, out-pictures, different from the work of pain, the joy and sorrow that a man's life of London's millions.

A graduate of the London School of Economics, later a brilliant student of law at the University of Warsaw, most-voiced with uncontrollable emotion, was telling me of the Nazi's war against civilization, the Nazi-manufactured mass atrocity that is Treblinka, the death camp on the outskirts of Warsaw.

"Before I describe Treblinka, I shall tell you a little of the 550,000 Jews who once were herded together in the Warsaw Ghetto. You will be interested. You will need to know this, the better to appreciate the significance of Treblinka."

The village of Treblinka lies in sandy, wooded country. It is inhabited by a poor population, chiefly peasants and forest labourers.

In the beginning, the Germans set up there a comparatively small concentration camp called Treblinka. It was there who had committed offenses against the occupying troops.

Iron Discipline In Camp

"Discipline in the camp is rigid. On the slightest pretexts are shots.

"But the new camp was built. This was destined to be the execution place for Polish and other European Jews."

"In the midst of the camps enter buildings of stone, a stone and brick structure. It looks like an unfinished one-storey brick barracks."

Private Varszawska gazed straight ahead as this tried to fit in my mind the vision of Treblinka, the hell he had seen.

"The militiamen who had

exterminated the men and women who had been proscribed by the Nazis."

"These execution chambers have no windows and are entered only by doors leading



Neas in a Polish city rounding up victims for torture camps.

from the inside of the building. The walls there are like that which you find in some kitchens. The pipes which lead from the boiler-house and from which steam can be pumped into the pipes are put to death with sharp, thin blades. The victim is ordered to stand, blindfolded, over a fresh grave, and the commandant shoots him from the back, aiming usually at the head.

At the end of the day alone the commandant himself shot 500 young Jews. But the Germans are executing them in mass graves at several hundred thousands of Jews. But the Germans are preparing this fresh crime, and the second death house will not be used exclusively for Jewish victims. Death is approaching, with all its ruthlessness.

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Even Subordinates Are Terrified

Private Varszawska described the little group of men who were the carriers of death in Treblinka, most-voiced with uncontrollable emotion, was telling me of the Nazi's war against civilization, the Nazi-manufactured mass atrocity that is Treblinka, the death camp on the outskirts of Warsaw.

"Digging machines were put to work, night and day... The commandant of the camp is a characteristic sound of the Death Camp of Treblinka."

Poster That Only Cries

On the dark days of the Spanish Inquisition the Agents of the Holy Office found that the very thought of the torture which could be achieved by first allowing the victim to imagine he was being tortured, was more terrible than the actual torture.

"At first, on the 'Poster That Only Cries'—a poster for Polish prisoners to die graves. But as the extermination campaign went on, the Germans had to put up another poster.

"Digging machines were put to work, night and day... The commandant of the camp is a characteristic sound of the Death Camp of Treblinka."

Poster That Only Cries

Even the transports filled with men, women and children from Germany and other occupied countries arrive at Treblinka, the commandant of the camp, and breathes a sigh of relief when its eyes light on a greater poster which he has just seen.

"Believe it or not," he said "there exists here a Jewish militia organized by the Germans to help the commandant of the camp."

"That is Treblinka. There are other atrocious German-built ghettos of death and death, but none like this one."

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